

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for processing a request for an electronic product comprising the  
2 computer-implemented steps of:  
3 receiving at a cache a request to provide an electronic product to a user;  
4 in response to receiving the request to provide an electronic product to the user,  
5 the cache providing the electronic product to the user;  
6 if the electronic product is successfully provided by the cache to the user, then the  
7 cache generating confirmation data that indicates that the electronic  
8 product was successfully provided from the cache to the user.
- 1 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the cache providing the  
2 confirmation data to a confirmation recipient.
- 1 3. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the cache providing the  
2 confirmation data to a confirmation recipient in response to an inquiry by the  
3 confirmation recipient about whether the electronic product was successfully  
4 provided by the cache to the user.
- 1 4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the confirmation data indicates an  
2 identity of the user.
- 1 5. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the confirmation data indicates a  
2 location of the user.
- 1 6. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the confirmation data indicates a time

2 at which the electronic product was provided from the cache to the user.

1 7. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the electronic product includes music  
2 data.

1 8. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the electronic product includes image  
2 data.

1 9. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the electronic product includes video  
2 data.

1 10. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the request to provide an electronic  
2 product to a user is received at the cache from an origin server.

1 11. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the confirmation recipient is a digital  
2 rights clearinghouse.

1 12. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the confirmation recipient is a  
2 merchant of the electronic product.

1 13. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein receipt of the confirmation data by  
2 the merchant triggers a billing event for the electronic product.

1 14. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising providing access data to the  
2 user to allow the user to use the electronic product.

1 15. The method as recited in Claim 14, wherein the access data and the request to  
2 provide an electronic product to the user originate from the same entity.

1 16. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more  
2 instructions for processing a request for an electronic product, the one or more  
3 sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when  
4 executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
5 the steps of:  
6 receiving at a cache a request to provide an electronic product to a user;  
7 in response to receiving the request to provide an electronic product to the user,  
8 the cache providing the electronic product to the user;  
9 if the electronic product is successfully provided by the cache to the user, then the  
10 cache generating confirmation data that indicates that the electronic  
11 product was successfully provided from the cache to the user.

1 17. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, further comprising one or  
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or  
3 more processors, cause the cache to provide the confirmation data to a  
4 confirmation recipient.

1 18. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, further comprising one or  
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or  
3 more processors, cause the cache to provide the confirmation data to a  
4 confirmation recipient in response to an inquiry by the confirmation recipient  
5 about whether the electronic product was successfully provided by the cache to  
6 the user.

1 19. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the confirmation  
2 data indicates an identity of the user.

1 20. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the confirmation  
2 data indicates a location of the user.

1 21. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the confirmation  
2 data indicates a time at which the electronic product was provided from the cache  
3 to the user.

1 22. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the electronic  
2 product includes music data.

1 23. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the electronic  
2 product includes image data.

1 24. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the electronic  
2 product includes video data.

1 25. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the request to  
2 provide an electronic product to a user is received at the cache from an origin  
3 server.

1 26. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the confirmation  
2 recipient is a digital rights clearinghouse.

1 27. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the confirmation

2 recipient is a merchant of the electronic product.

1 28. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 27, wherein receipt of the  
2 confirmation data by the merchant triggers a billing event for the electronic  
3 product.

1 29. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, further comprising one or  
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or  
3 more processors, cause access data to be provided to the user to allow the user to  
4 use the electronic product.

1 30. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, wherein the access data  
2 and the request to provide an electronic product to the user originate from the  
3 same entity.

1 31. A cache comprising:  
2 a storage medium; and  
3 a confirmation mechanism configured to:  
4 in response to receiving a request to provide an electronic product to a  
5 user, provide the electronic product to the user, and  
6 if the electronic product is successfully provided by the cache to the user,  
7 then generate confirmation data that indicates that the electronic  
8 product was successfully provided from the cache to the user.

1 32. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the cache is further configured to  
2 provide the confirmation data to a confirmation recipient.

1 33. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the cache is further configured to  
2 provide the confirmation data to a confirmation recipient in response to an inquiry  
3 by the confirmation recipient about whether the electronic product was  
4 successfully provided by the cache to the user.

1 34. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the confirmation data indicates an  
2 identity of the user.

1 35. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the confirmation data indicates a  
2 location of the user.

1 36. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the confirmation data indicates a time  
2 at which the electronic product was provided from the cache to the user.

1 37. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the electronic product includes music  
2 data.

1 38. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the electronic product includes image  
2 data.

1 39. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the electronic product includes video  
2 data.

1 40. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the request to provide an electronic  
2 product to a user is received at the cache from an origin server.

1 41. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the confirmation recipient is a digital

2 rights clearinghouse.

1 42. The cache as recited in Claim 31, wherein the confirmation recipient is a

2 merchant of the electronic product.